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| Submitter: | Connie Whelchel |
| On Behalf Of: | |
| Committee: | House Committee On Rules |
| Measure, Appointment or Topic: | HB3166 |

While I understand the intent behind this measure, it is short-sighted and overlooks how easily it could be manipulated—much like open primaries—through "strategic voting." This tactic allows members of one party to vote for the weakest candidate in the opposing party's primary, increasing their own party's chances in the General Election. This bill makes such manipulation far too easy.

The solution isn't to make the system easier to game. If Non-Affiliated voters want a say in primary elections (which many of them don't because many of them choose not to be engaged with politics and are, therefore, not very well informed anyway, hence why they have significantly lower voter turnout even in the General Elections they can vote in), they can simply register with a political party—an easy process through the Oregon Secretary of State's MyVote website. It's very fast and easy to do. It literally takes 2-3 minutes at the most. They can even switch back to being Non-Affiliated after the primary if they choose.

To ensure our elections reflect the true will of the people, I urge you to oppose this bill.

Thank you.